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ECONOMIC SANCTIONS AGAINST ARGENTINA: ITALIAN REACTIONS

1. MOST POLITICAL ORGANISATIONS IN ITALY HAVE APPROVED ITALY'S DECISION NOT TO RENEW ECONOMIC SANCTIONS AGAINST ARGENTINA. LEADERS OF THE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS (DC), THE SOCIALISTS (PSI), THE COMMUNIST PARTY (PCI), THE NEO FASCISTS (MSI) AND THE MAIN TRADE UNION FEDERATIONS HAVE ALL MADE STATEMENTS SUPPORTING THE GOVERNMENT'S DECISION. SPADOLINI'S REPUBLICAN PARTY (PRI) HAVE ALSO SUPPORTED THE DECISION ALTHOUGH SOME COMMENTATORS SUGGEST THAT THE PARTY WOULD HAVE PREFERRED TO ADHERE TO A COMMON COMMUNITY DECISION. THE PRI HAD TO SUPPORT SPADOLINI, WHO IN TURN WAS FORCED BY SOCIALIST AND CHRISTIAN DEMOCRAT PRESSURE TO AGREE THAT SANCTIONS SHOULD NOT BE RENEWED. MOST POLITICIANS, INCLUDING SPADOLINI, HAVE EMPHASIZED THAT ITALY'S DECISION ON SANTIONS DOES NOT LESSEN HER SOLIDARITY WITH BRITAIN OVER THE FALKLANDS' CRISIS. BUT CRAXI HAS CALLED ON BRITAIN NOT TO DEMONSTRATE HER MILITARY FORCE BUT TO GIVE PROOF OF HER REASONABLNESS AND FAR SIGHTEDNESS SUPPORT FOR THE DECISION NOT TO RENEW SANCTIONS IS JUSTIFIED BY REFERENCE TO ITALY'S CLOSE LINKS WITH ARGENTINA AND THE NEED TO PROMOTE A NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT TO THE FALKLANDS' CRISIS.
2. THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATS (PSDI) AND THE LIBERALS (PLI) HAVE HOWEVER BOTH CRITICIZED THE GOVERNMENT FOR UNDERMINING EUROPEAN SOLID-ARITY.
3. PARTY PAPERS NATURALLY FOLLOW THE PARTY LINE. THE BALANCE OF OTHER PRESS REACTIONS IS MARKEDLY MORE CRITICAL OF THE ITALIAN GOVERNMENT. THERE IS FEAR THAT ITALY HAS UNDERMINED EUROPEAN SOLIDARITY AND ISOLATED HERSELF FOR THE FIRST TIME FROM THE MAIN BODY OF THE COMMUNITY. LA STAMPA (CENTRE) SAYS THAT BRITAIN MIGHT HAVE BEEN ABLE TO SECURE GREATER SOLIDARITY FROM THE COMMUNITY OVER THE FALKLANDS BY ADOPTING A LESS RIGID ATTITUDE OVER THE BUDGET AND AGRICULTURAL PRICES. ON THE NEGOTIATIONS WITH ARGENTINA, HOWEVER, BRITAIN HAS SHOWN CONSIDERABLE FLEXIBILITY. ITALY'S DEC-ISION ON SANCTIONS WILL SEND THE WRONG SIGNALS TO THE ARGENTINE JUNTA AND UNDERMINE ITALY'S CREDIBILITY AS A RELIABLE ALLY. CORRIERE DELLA SERA (CENTRE) ADDS THAT ITALY'S ACTION WILL MAKE UN MEDIATION NO EASIER. IL (CENTRE-FINANCIAL DAILY) CRITICISES THE GOVERNMENT FOR HAVING EFFECTIVELY ALLIED ITALY WITH THE ARGENTINE GENERALS. LA REPUBBLICA (LEFTWING) IN A HARD-HITTING EDITORIAL

/MAKES

MAKES THE SAME POINT AND CALLS RECENT ITALIAN ACTION A "MASTER-PIECE OF DUPLICITY AND DIPLOMATIC INEFFICIENCY". THE ITALIAN DECISION WILL BE WELCOMED IN BUENOS AIRES. IN CONTRAST IL GIORNALE (RIGHTWING) SAYS THAT THE DECISION DOES NOT REPRESENT A DEFEAT FOR ITALY. SHE HAS IN EFFECT ENDED SANCTIONS ONLY SEVEN DAYS EARLIER THAN OTHER EC COUNTRIES. BRITAIN SHOULD NOT ASK FOR SOLIDARITY OVER THE FALKLANDS WHILE SHOWING NO SOLIDARITY OVER THE BUDGET AND AGRICULTURAL CRISIS.

4. ALL THE PRESS EMPHASIZES THE IMPORTANCE OF ITALIAN COALITION POLITICS IN DETERMINING THE GOVERNMENT'S ATTITUDE.
5. FCO PSE PASS SAVING ADDRESSEES

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